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Government  
Publications



Ontario

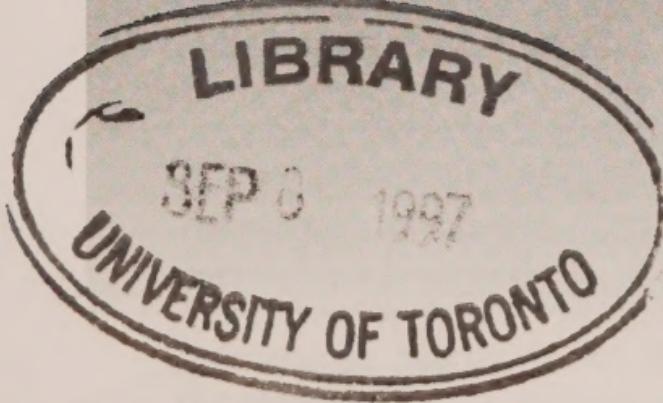
**FARM**

**BUSINESS**

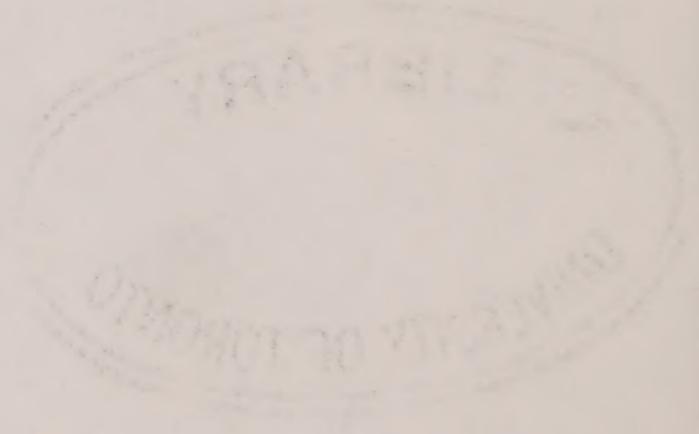
**REGISTRATION**

**PROGRAM**

**1997**



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS



AYW-1651

## REQUIREMENTS

All Ontario farm businesses with a gross farm income of \$7,000 or more in the recent taxation year, must:

- Register annually with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) providing name, address, and basic business information.
- Pay an annual fee of \$150.00 (GST included) to one of the accredited general farm organizations (GFO's). The legislation provides that the fee is refundable upon request. Only one fee is payable per business regardless of the number of partners, shareholders or owners. However, if an individual owns more than one farm business, a fee must be paid by each business.

Please refer to your registration form for your deadline. Registering by your deadline will ensure that your access to designated OMAFRA programs will continue without delay. If you do not register and pay the annual fee, program access will be denied until you have completed the registration process. However, registering your farm business does not automatically ensure your eligibility under ministry programs.

## HOW TO REGISTER

A separate registration form is required for each farm business with gross farm income equal to or greater than \$7,000. **Each form must be accompanied by a cheque made payable to one of the GFO's either the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) OR the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) and returned by the deadline date indicated on the first page of the form.**

Forms received without cheques can not be processed until payment is received. Registration numbers are not valid until payment is received.

*On the face of the form please indicate corrections or changes to the form by placing a check mark (✓) in the change of information box at the left hand side of the form below the mailing address.*

If you receive more than one registration form but you only have one farm operation, complete only one form. Mark VOID on the extra form(s) and return them to the ministry with your completed registration form.

Only farm businesses which declare farm income of \$7,000 or more (for income tax purposes) are required to register under this Act. If you do not receive an application form and you feel that you are required to register, please call Toll Free at 1-800-469-2285 or (416) 326-9900 and a form will be mailed out to you.

## NEW REGISTRATIONS

### SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS

- Complete section A,B,C, and D of the registration form

Note: If only one spouse claims the farm income (loss), the business is considered a sole proprietorship.

### PARTNERSHIPS, CORPORATIONS , COOPERATIVES, JOINT VENTURES

- Complete sections A, C, D and E.

Note: In a spousal partnership where both spouses report farm income (loss) for tax purposes, register as a partnership.

## FARM BUSINESS NAME

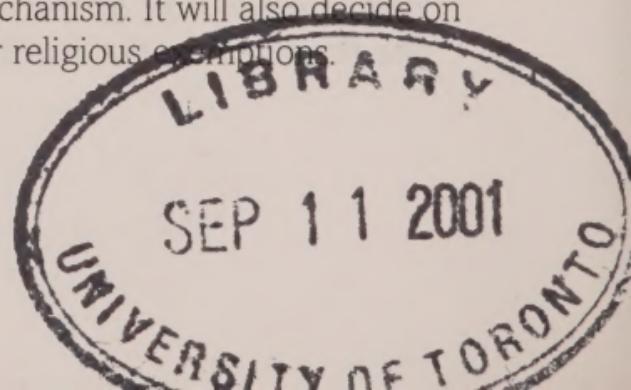
In situations such as spousal or informal partnerships where the business does not have a legal name, use your farm name. If there is no common farm name, leave the line on the form blank.

## FARM ORGANIZATIONS ACCREDITATION TRIBUNAL

The Farm Organizations Accreditation Tribunal is appointed by Cabinet to review GFO's applications for accreditation and inclusion in the funding mechanism. It will also decide on applications for religious exemptions.

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## **HOW TO REQUEST EXEMPTION**

The legislation also provides for seeking an exemption from these requirements for religious reasons.

Persons who object to registering and/or providing a fee due to their genuinely held religious beliefs can write to the Farm Organizations Accreditation Tribunal requesting that their circumstances be reviewed for exemption. (See address on page 5).

## **ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATIONS**

Currently, two general farm organizations are accredited. Other farm organizations can apply to the Tribunal at any time for future accreditation. Farm businesses may direct their fee to either the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO), or the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA).

The CFFO is a general farm organization for family farmers “promoting family enterprise, resource stewardship, family values and rural community economic development. It focuses on sustainable family farm businesses and quality farm family life.”

The OFA is “the largest voluntary general farm voice in Canadian agriculture. It is a non partisan and non profit farm lobby that includes 48 county and district federations, nearly 30 marketing and commodity organizations, as well as educational and farmer interest groups.”

More information on these GFO’s can be obtained by contacting the organizations directly. (See page 5 for telephone numbers of each organization.)

The legislation allows only valid registration numbers, registered business/partnership names, contact names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers be given to the GFO’s with the payment. All other information collected will be retained by OMAFRA to develop policies and programs, and to distribute information to farm businesses and their owners.

In addition, OMAFRA and the accredited GFO's will provide funding for the Union des cultivateurs des franco-ontariens (UCFO), recognizing the importance of including a francophone farming organization.

## HOW TO OBTAIN A REFUND

*The Farm Registration and Farm Organizations Funding Act*, was designed to establish a secure source of producer financing for general farm organizations in Ontario and to create a registration database for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs that will assist in the development of agricultural policies and programs.

Farm businesses have the option of obtaining a full refund by writing to the farm organization selected during the registration process. Under the legislation, there is a time limit of 90 days, starting with your deadline date, during which time you may request a refund from the general farm organization your farm business supported with a cheque.

There is no official refund form. Your letter, addressed to the respective general farm organization, should indicate your registration number. Requesting a refund does not affect your eligibility for Ministry programs.

Processing by the ministry could take several weeks before cheques are forwarded to the GFO's during busy processing periods. Accordingly, the GFO's cannot process refunds until they have received and cashed the cheques/money orders.

## **CONTACTS**

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE  
REGISTRATION PROCESS OR THE FORM,  
CONTACT:**

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Farm Business Registration Program  
90 Sheppard Avenue East, 6th Floor  
North York, Ontario  
M2N 6W5

Toll Free (English) 1-800-469-2285  
(For French brochure 1-800-333-9723)  
Tel. (416) 326-9900  
Fax (416) 326-3507

**TO CONTACT THE ACCREDITATION TRIBUNAL,  
WRITE:**

Farm Organizations Accreditation Tribunal  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1 Stone Road West  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 4Y2

**TO CONTACT THE ACCREDITED GFOs, WRITE  
OR CALL:**

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario  
(CFFO)  
115 Woolwich Street  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1H 3V1

Tel. (519) 837-1620  
Fax (519) 824-1835

Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)  
40 Eglinton Avenue East, 5th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 3A2

Tel. (416) 485-3333  
Fax (416) 485-9027



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